

B E D W E L L T Y



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1965.

BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



With the Compliments of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
and the
Medical Officer of Health

MUNICIPAL OFFICES
ABERBARGOED
BARGOED, Glam.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28827740>

BEDWELLY



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**The Annual Reports of the
Medical Officer of Health**

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1965.

THE HISTORY OF



OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1877

PRINTED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE YEAR 1877

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1965 - 1966

Chairman - Councillor E. J. Butler, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor W. Hardacre

MEMBERS

Councillor I. J. Bowen
(died 25.11.65.)
" R. R. Bryant, M.M.
" P. G. Bullen, D.F.C.
" W. D. G. Cole
" D. Davies
" Mrs. E. Davies
(elected 14.10.65.)
" T. I. Davies
" F. E. Evans
" B. Gibbs, J.P.
" G. H. Hawker
" E. G. Hodges
" Mrs. R. James
(elected 30.12.65.)

Councillor M. E. E. Lloyd
" K. Meade
" R. J. Nash
(resigned 25.6.65.)
" G. C. Nelmes
" W. E. Park
" Mrs. M. R. Powell
(elected 21.2.66.)
" F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
" J. Salway
" G. H. Thomas
" J. D. Turner
" D. G. Werrett
" S. T. Williams
(resigned 4.10.65.)

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
(as at 31st March, 1966)

Chairman - Councillor T. I. Davies

Vice-Chairman - Councillor J. D. Turner

Councillor R. R. Bryant, M.M.
" W. D. G. Cole
" D. Davies
" B. Gibbs
" W. Hardacre
" E. G. Hodges

Councillor M. E. E. Lloyd
" K. Meade
" G. C. Nelmes
" F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
" J. Salway
" G. H. Thomas

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	Dr. Richard A. Hoey, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	A. M. Coleman, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	E. J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector	...	...	...	G. H. Gane, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Student Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	R. Mitchard
Rodent Operator	...	...	...	C. O. Shelton
Mortuary and Post Mortem Attendant				
			(Part-time)	E. Jones
Shorthand Typist/Clerk	...	...	...	Miss C. A. Thomas

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1965

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,353
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,826
(Census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,336
Estimated Population for Birth and Death Rates 1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,200
Number of Inhabited Houses as at 31st December, 1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,770
Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.5
Rateable Value as at 31st March, 1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£571,091
Product of Penny Rate 1964/65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,215
Number of Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	476
Net Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.1
Number of Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of Deaths of Residents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	269
Net Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.9
Number of Deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Of these there were Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Mortality, per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.1
Number of Women dying from Childbirth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Deaths from all forms of Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.

1st May, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

REPORT ON REPORTS

This being my last annual report, I had better make it a good one. Year after year I have tried to say something useful or original rather than give statistical tables that mean very little. Whereas it is not difficult, being an original thinker, to write on some useful topic, it is most difficult to be truly original. My best report was on wildcat strikes and vandalism but, I am afraid, this report was based on second-hand information. Although it startled people at the time, it is now official policy of the main political parties.

The trouble with originality is that, although you seem to have something really original at the turn of the year, by the time the report is published, the rest of the field have caught up with you. There must be at least a dozen original thinkers in the Society of Medical Officers of Health, probably many more, but, as it is on them that so much of the Welfare State depends, I would like to take this opportunity of praising them and also, particularly, Mr. Lewis Elliston, Editor of 'The Medical Officer', who, although a layman, seems to know more about public health than I do; also to my colleague, Dr. A. J. Dalzell-Ward, Medical Director, Central Council for Health Education, we are indebted for his fair appraisal of other peoples' ideas although an original thinker and critic himself; and also to Dr. Harley Williams of the Chest and Heart Association.

During the whole of my period here, problem families have never been far from my thoughts. When the National Health Service Act came into force in 1948, there was already a shortage of hospital beds. The workhouses, which had been built with loving care from seemingly indestructible materials as the last place of refuge for the poor and destitute, became hospitals. Thus we get the infuriating situation of two nurses' training schools side by side and nothing whatever in other places, because I still hold that care and after care are as important as in-patient treatment, yet I think I can claim to have saved some lives simply because I had the energy to push an urgent case to the top of the queue, contacting Mr. Finch and/or the Press, but still this problem of creating new problems by solving old problems remains unsatisfactorily solved.

I doubt the wisdom of closing Bowen's Lodging House but I must accept the responsibility. It is no good thinking about the moon when we are trying

to operate a Welfare State. There is abundant evidence of the need to re-establish the workhouses in a new form - say 'rehabilitation centres' - and so much of the work of the Rent Arrears Committee and the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, the building staff and the Chief Public Health Inspector could be solved with a simple eviction order. I have only seen a marginal improvement in problem families at great cost to the taxpayer and the ratepayer, with the children's allowances being spent on every kind of stupidity whilst the children are still neglected. Everyone wants love and affection and it has been a costly experiment, but most interesting, to show that money is no substitute for them. I have discussed this problem with Rev. John Wall, Chaplain of Holloway Gaol, and we decided that if the Welfare State worked properly, all that would be needed for female prisoners would be a country house with minimum security. In this search for love and affection, people suffer every affliction but so often defeat their own ends. Fathers of large families should be induced to work, at present they are 'hospitalised' at home. It will only take a fraction of the national revenue to set the Welfare State right.

Lastly, it is not money that doctors are worried about, it is lack of proper authority and dignity for a person who started further education with the equivalent of three 'A' levels. I have read the introduction to a volume of eighteenth century verse by doctors in the Wellcome Institute and everything the author complains about is more or less the same today. I think the date was about 1840.

The doctor should be 'on top' not 'on tap' and whichever side got back to the Government on 31st March, my message is the same. I hope soon to appear on National Television and, if this report does not get quick action, I should have abundant material for propaganda. I hope I will soon have an opportunity of meeting Cliff Michelmore and Derek Amore who is now producing '24 Hours'. There can be no good writing without feeling and I have never yet failed to get response to my feelings when I have had an opportunity to put them where they should be put - in print or on 'electronic celluloid'.

Finale

I can see now that it has been quite impossible to report upon everything that has occurred to me during the last few months. If I do manage to get anything published on a grand scale, may I say in advance that I regard it as an appendage of this Report. I have had the great honour and pleasure of being 'in the thick of it' and I hope that no characters I shall portray will be taken as that of anybody with whom I have been associated in work, nor do I intend to refer to the Bedwellty Area or to Monmouthshire in any but the most affectionate terms.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. HOEY

Medical Officer of Health.

B I R T H S 1 9 6 5

The births registered during the year:

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Legitimate	231	221
Illegitimate	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>245</u>	<u>231</u>
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate	...	...
Stillbirths	...	...
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...
Total live and still births	...	...

D E A T H S 1 9 6 5

No. of deaths during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
The death rate after correction of inward and outward transfers	...							9.9

Death rate for the previous years may be compared:

<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
10.15	10.83	10.5	11.7	11.1	11.9	10.5	9.9

INFANTILE MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
1 - 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2 - 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
3 - 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
											<u>5</u>
1 - 3 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
3 - 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
6 - 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
9 - 12 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
											<u>6</u>

Total number of deaths under one year: 11.

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	23.1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first 4 weeks)	...	...	...	9.1
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	8.4

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE

NIL

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Per 1,000 births (live and still):

Bedwellty	...	...	...	2.1
Monmouth County	...	...	...	0.59

CAUSES OF DEATH 1965

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Syphilitic Disease	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Cancer (Stomach)	4	1
Cancer (Lung, Bronchus)	9	1
Cancer (Breast)	-	5
Cancer (Uterus)	-	1
Cancer (Other Sites)	14	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	20
Coronary Disease, Angina	29	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	1
Other Heart Disease	18	30
Other Circulatory Disease	3	2
Pneumonia	6	6
Bronchitis	13	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	7	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1
Congenital Malformations	-	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	1
All Other Accidents	3	2
Suicide	1	-
TOTALS	150	119

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR

Cause	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Total
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined causes	4	2	6
Accidents	-	1	1
Total	5	6	11

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
MALES		
Miner	2	-
Lorry Driver	1	-
Old Age Pensioner	2	-
Schoolboy	1	-
Not known	-	1
FEMALES		
Housewife	1	-

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY

TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1956	26	3
1957	26	1
1958	34	9
1959	14	10
1960	28	3
1961	12	2
1962	5	3
1963	13	1
1964	8	3
1965	7	Nil

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS IN THE PAST 12 YEARS

YEAR	AGE GROUP		
	1 - 5 Yrs	6 - 15 Yrs	16 & over
1954	3	2	32
1955	-	4	34
1956	1	7	18
1957	2	4	20
1958	1	5	19
1959	3	1	10
1960	4	1	23
1961	2	1	8
1962	-	-	5
1963	2	-	11
1964	1	-	7
1965	-	1	6

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis during 1965.

Age Period in years	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 14	1	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	1	1	-	1
45 - 64	3	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	2	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN REGISTRATION WARDS

Ward	Notifiable Disease	
	Scarlet Fever	Measles
New Tredegar	-	-
Aberbargoed	-	25
Pengam	1	5
Cefn Fforest	2	8
Blackwood	11	22
Argoed	-	1
Markham	-	1
Hollybush	-	-

The majority of notifications were received during the second quarter of the year.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

(Telephone: Bargoed 2137)

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.

1st May, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of the
BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1965.

.....

NOTICES SERVED

(a) Public Health Act 1936

(i) Informal notices in respect of repairs and nuisances (Sec. 92)	85
(ii) Abatement notices requiring repair of dwellings (Sec. 93)	... 71
(iii) Requiring cleansing of premises (Sec. 83)	... .. 2
(iv) Requiring adequate supply of water in pipes to dwelling houses (Sec. 138)	... .. 1

(b) Other Acts

Factories Act 1961, Sec. 7 (provision of sanitary conveniences)	... 3
Public Health Act 1961, Sec. 32 (provision of foodstore)	... .. 1
Housing Act 1957, Sec. 78(5) (overcrowding)	... .. 1

HOUSING

(a) Repair of privately owned houses

(i) No. of houses repaired by owners as a result of informal notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
(ii) No. of houses repaired by owners as a result of formal notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59

The foregoing figures show a decrease of 11 notices on the number for 1964.

Included in (ii) above were 18 cases which required Police Court action.

(b) Slum Clearance

Steady progress was made during the year on the programme outlined in last year's report. Such progress is geared to the availability of houses for the displaced persons; a ratio of one slum clearance rehousing to every five houses available for letting has been adopted.

The following houses were subject to demolition or closing orders during 1965:

4 James Street, New Tredegar;
99 and 100 Ruperra Street, New Tredegar;
5 and 6 River Terrace, Pengam;
Sunnyside Bungalow, New Road, Pengam;
24, 25 and 26 Ivor Street, Fleur-de-lis;
1 Thomas Street, Fleur-de-lis;
15 and 16 Plas Road, Fleur-de-lis;
1 and 2 Trelyn Cottages, Fleur-de-lis; and
29 High Street, Argoed.

(c) Improvement of Houses

As will be seen from the table following, the number of applications for Standard/Discretionary Grants has steadily increased during the past three years.

It is pleasing to note that the National Coal Board have undertaken substantial schemes of improvement in Aberbargoed and Markham.

No. of applications received during 1963, 1964 and 1965:

	1963	1964	1965
Standard Grants	29	79	62
Discretionary Grants	25	56	105
TOTALS	54	135	167

Details of Standard Grants for 1965:

No. of applications received: 62
No. of applications approved: 50
No. of applications paid: 64

No. of baths installed: 30
No. of wash-hand basins installed: 62
No. of hot water supplies installed: 34
No. of W.C.s installed: 34
No. of foodstores installed: 30

Total amount of grants paid: £5,704.9.0d.

Details of Discretionary Grants for 1965:

No. of applications received: 105
No. of applications approved: 41
No. of grants completed: 49

Repair schedules were made for all these houses and such repairs are being carried out concurrent with improvement.

COUNCIL HOUSES

House to house inspections of council property are carried out, particular attention being paid to cleanliness, overcrowding and urgent repairs. It has been necessary to carry out many inspections at a few houses where conditions have not been up to standard. In one case it was necessary to enforce eviction of the tenant.

Number of inspections carried out during 1965: 474.

I am indebted to Mr. Daynes, Housing Manager, who has supplied me with the number of applications for council houses. The position at 31st March,

1965 was:-

In apartments	299
Tenants and others	<u>279</u>
	<u>578</u>

All vacant Council houses are inspected and accommodation of prospective tenants examined. The number of inspections carried out for this purpose during the year were:-

Vacated council houses:	49
Transfers of tenancy:	165
Prospective tenants:	30

WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies in the Rhymney Valley and Sirhowy Valley are sampled at approximately fortnightly intervals, samples being taken from all points in the area.

Number of samples taken during the year	...	88
Rhymney Valley supply	... ..	53
Sirhowy Valley supply	... ..	35

Six samples showed some counts of coliform bacillus. The respective Water Board was notified on each occasion.

REFUSE

This service is under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor and householders in all parts of the area are now supplied with refuse bins. Collection is twice weekly with one additional day for salvage collection.

Refuse tips have the constant attention of the rodent operator.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There is no licensed shop for the sale of pets in the area.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The area is served by two trunk sewers with sea outfall. A few houses are not on the water-borne system in the more rural parts of the area. The village of Manmoel is served by a septic tank and biological filter.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

During 1965, 37 autopsies were carried out at the post mortem room. For many years duties of cleaning the premises and attending during post mortems have been carried out by Mr. Elias Jones and tribute is paid to him for his willing service during evenings and weekends over the years.

During the latter part of the year, owing to illness, Mr. Jones was unable to fulfil his duties and they were taken over by Mr. C. Shelton who has shown the same responsibility as his predecessor.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

Burial of the Dead

It was not necessary to carry out duties under this Act during the year. The Contractor to the Council for this service is Mr. Herbert Jones, Blackwood (telephone number: Blackwood 2365). His contract includes the removal of the body of a person found dead on the public highway or in any public place.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the area.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table shows infestation and treatments carried out during 1965. All sewers have been rat-baited on at least two occasions, warfarin poison being used, and casual labour has been engaged to assist the rodent operator. The number of complaints received regarding rat and mouse infestation remains fairly constant and this gives reason to deduce that constant rodent control is essential.

	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses)	(3) All Other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	(5) Agriculture
1. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	19	263	21	303	-
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
common rat	-	-	-	-	-
major minor	19	217	21	257	-
house mouse	-	-	-	-	-
major minor	-	20	-	20	-
2. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	18	93	72	183	36
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
common rat	-	-	-	-	-
major minor	12	26	18	56	-
house mouse	-	-	-	-	-
major minor	-	2	-	2	-
3. Number of infested properties	31	265	39	335	-

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Byelaws are in operation controlling cleanliness and methods in these premises. Routine inspections are carried out at intervals. Number of premises in the area:-

WARD	REGISTERED PREMISES OF HAIRDRESSERS	
	LADIES	GENTLEMEN
New Tredegar	3	1
Aberbargoed	2	1
Pengam and Fleur-de-lis	2	2
Cefn Fforest	1	2
Blackwood	9	3
Argoed	-	-
Markham	1	1
Hollybush	1	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	36	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	34	38	4	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	2	0	1	0

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Below is an extract from the report submitted to the Ministry of Labour on the operation of the above Act to 31st December, 1965:-

(i) Registration and General Inspections:

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	47	14
Retail Shops	7	102	62
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Totals	7	159	76

(ii) Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises: 153.

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	331
Retail shops	529
Wholesale departments, warehouses	27
Catering establishments open to the public	40
Canteens	4
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	931

Total Males 360

Total Females 571

In October/December a detailed lighting survey was carried out at shops and offices as requested by the Ministry of Labour and comments sent to that office. There is no legal standard of lumens per square foot. Lighting

in the main shop area and in offices was generally satisfactory but stair-cases varied considerably from very poor to good. Lighting of stockrooms of shops was poor by contrast with main shop areas.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings of smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide content of the atmosphere are taken at the Municipal Offices, Aberbargoed. The machine operates 24 hours a day and, on alternate days, special filter paper is used which is sent to the Public Analyst, Newport, to be examined for radioactivity in the air - a scheme operated by several selected authorities in Monmouthshire. The report of deviation of radioactivity is received from the Analyst together with results of rain water, sewage effluent and drinking water analyses taken in other selected areas.

The pattern of the graph of smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide content during 1965 showed a similar curve to that of previous years, the lowest point of the curve being during the summer months. This would indicate that the greater amount of smoke from domestic fires during the colder winter months is a major source of pollution. The figures are, however, lower than those recorded in 'black' areas. The highest recorded daily average for any month of the year for smoke was 72.7 micro-grammes per cubic metre in October and 47.5 micro-grammes per cubic metre in February for sulphur dioxide.

CINEMAS AND WELFARE INSTITUTES

There are 10 of these premises in the area and they are regularly inspected for compliance with the Public Health Act 1936 and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 also apply in several of these premises where food is sold. It was necessary to notify the proprietors in a few cases of infringements which were duly rectified.

FOOD SUPERVISION

(a) Meat Inspection

There is no abattoir in the area but assistance in meat inspection has been given to the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council during periods of holidays and emergency absence of inspectors in that area. The other adjoining areas, Mynyddislwyn Urban District Council and

Gelligaer Urban District Council, join Bedwellty in the relief meat inspection scheme as and when necessary.

(b) Public Houses and Clubs

Number of licensed premises in the area: 54
Number of inspections made during the year: 118

Inspections were carried out during and out of licensing hours. Whilst the standard of hygiene in these premises in the area is generally satisfactory, it was necessary to call the attention of breweries or stewards to some contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. The main defect was that of redecoration whilst, in a few premises, attention had to be drawn to the lack of ventilation and maintenance of sanitary accommodation.

(c) Condemned Food

During inspections of food shops, the following foods were surrendered by managers as unfit for human consumption:

	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat	140
Fish	56
Tinned Meat	2654
Tinned Fish	23
Tinned Fruit	600
Tinned soup and vegetables	58
Jams and potted foods	16
Processed milk and cream	44
Miscellaneous	<u>29</u>
	3624

1 ton 12 cwt. 36 lbs.

It will be noted from the foregoing that the weight of canned meat is rather unusual and the reason for this is that during one month six and a half cwt. of cooked ham in 72 cans was condemned, mostly from one consignment.

The ham was condemned at a local wholesaler's store and investigations were made to ascertain the reasons for the deterioration of the product after leaving the country of origin, Yugoslavia. A long chain of circumstances may arise in the importation of such meat and its maintenance at a low temperature.

Wholesalers and dealers are co-operative with this department in surrendering such cans which are obviously defective. All condemned food is transferred to a refuse tip and destroyed.

(d) Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

(e) Food and Drugs Act

Mr. R. J. Bullen, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Monmouthshire County Council, has kindly submitted the following information of sampling in the Bedwellty Area undertaken by his department.

"Samples Taken: 45 milk; 48 other food; 2 ice cream; 3 beer;
Total 98.

The Public Analyst certified all samples to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

1. Ice Cream Deficient in Fat - During routine sampling a sample taken from a cafe owner proved to be 18.8% deficient in fat. Proceedings were instituted against the manufacturers who were Fined £3. Costs £3. 3s.
2. Scone containing a Capsule - A housewife complained to the department that a scone she had purchased contained a capsule. The Public Analyst confirmed this to be a capsule identified as Indocid, a drug used in the treatment of rheumatism. Proceedings could not be taken as the witness was reluctant to appear in court. The bakers concerned were cautioned."

(f) Ice Cream

Only at a few premises is ice cream manufactured but there are a considerable number of premises registered for sale or storage of this commodity.

Ice cream sampling was mainly aimed at a series of samples taken from cafes and restaurants where ice cream was manufactured. It is pleasing to report that, of the 22 samples taken, 19 were Grade 1 - the unofficial highest quality of hygiene. The other three samples were Grades 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

There has been an appreciable fall in the number of mobile traders operating in the area.

(g) Milk Supplies

66 samples of milk were taken from vendors' supplies and from school premises. The samples were examined for adequate pasteurisation and subjected to the Methylene Blue test (keeping quality). Four samples (at intervals) from the same wholesaler failed the Methylene Blue test. The pasteurising firm was contacted and the assistance of

the public health department in that particular area was called upon for investigation.

A visit was also made by members of the department to the pasteurising plant.

(h) Other Food Premises

All cafes and restaurants, butchers' shops, pithead and factory canteens, fried fish premises and school canteens were visited and inspected on a number of occasions during the year. A few infringements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 were notified as necessary and these were duly complied with. Reference should be made here to the high standard of personal hygiene of school canteen operatives.

67 premises in the category operate in this area.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the manner in which the staff of this department have carried out their duties during the past 12 months and to the Council and their officers for their continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector.



(
(

(
(

